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## **Signature Verification Complete for Newport Beach – Debt Initiative Petition**

SANTA ANA – May 5, 2006 – Today the Orange County Registrar of Voters certified the Newport Beach – Debt Initiative petitions.

The City of Newport Beach submitted the petitions to the Registrar of Voters on April 10, 2006. As per the California Elections Code, the Registrar of Voters reviewed the petitions within 30 days excluding weekends and holidays. The petitioners needed 6,006 registered voters' signatures to qualify for the ballot. Qualified signatures consisted of registered voters within the City of Newport Beach.

The Registrar of Voters examined 100% of the 7,410 signatures that were submitted. The following table shows the results of the signature verification for the petition.

| <b>Number of Signatures Submitted</b> | <b>Number of Valid Signatures Needed to Qualify</b> | <b>Number of Signatures Examined</b> | <b>Number of Signatures Verified as Valid</b> |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| 7,410                                 | 6,006   | 7,410                                | 5,820   |

The total number of invalid signatures was 1,590. The top four reasons signatures were determined invalid are as follows:

| <b>Duplicate Signature<br/>(Identical voter signed more than once).</b> | <b>Not Registered</b> | <b>Registered at a Different Address</b> | <b>Declaration Incomplete<br/>(Most for being circulated prior to published date).</b> |
|---|-----------------------|--|--|
| 798   | 320                   | 188                                      | 144  |

The petitioners, Newporters for Responsible Government (NRG), after having purchased the registered voter database were concerned to find that voters had moved. They found that the address, which was on file, was not what they wrote on the petition. As was explained on numerous occasions to NRG, the copy of the database that NRG purchased in late December 2005 is a snapshot of the database on that day. The voter registration database is constantly changing. Maintenance of the database occurs daily as the Registrar receives an average of 500 registrations per day.

NRG was also informed that registrations would be updated via the National Change of Address (NCOA) process in February. With NCOA the United States Post Office provides the Registrar with recent address changes. Once received, the Registrar places the new address in active status for the voter and will wait up to 30 days to receive a post card back from the voter confirming or denying the change.

In conducting the signature verification the Registrar looks at the active, inactive and cancelled registrations on the database to determine the voter's eligibility on the date they signed the petition. In accordance with State law, the cancelled and inactive registrations are not sold or available for view by the public.

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